



NEWS RELEASE

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LONG BEACH UNITY AND ARTS IN ACTION

LONG BEACH, California (March 23-March 25, 2018) – The Long Beach Unity Festival (LBUF) will present the 8th *Annual Dancer in Me Sacred Arts & Music Training Institute* under the *theme “Planet Shakers: Cover the Earth”* on Friday, March 23rd through Sunday, March 25th, 2018 on the campuses of *California State University, Long Beach (CSULB)* and *Long Beach Unified School District’s (LBUSD) Cabrillo High School*. As part of the weekend-long activities, *The Long Beach Unity Festival* will co-host a kick-off fundraiser with LBUSD School Board President, Dr. Felton Williams to benefit the LBUF **Sky Kids Creative Arts in Action** program on Thursday March 22nd, 5:30pm-7:30pm at Keesal, Young, & Logan, 400 Oceangate in Long Beach. The Sky Kids Event is sponsored in part by 4th District L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn. The weekend culminates with a community-wide celebration at the *18th Annual Long Beach Unity Music & Arts Festival* on Sunday, March 25th featuring live music and dance performances, exhibitions, and vendors from 11am-6pm at Cabrillo High School, 2001 Santa Fe Ave. Long Beach.

Produced in collaboration with Spirit of Praise Sacred Artistry International, LBUSD, Cabrillo High School, and CSULB, the *Dancer in Me Sacred Arts & Music Training Institute* is a uniquely designed training experience in the Arts produced by husband and wife team Steve and the Rev. Stephanie Adams, the organization’s President and Executive Director. LBUF continues a successful history of community outreach and engagement of young people, while providing creative & professional instruction, education, and spiritual enrichment in artistry.

On **Friday, March 23rd** (11am-4pm, Cabrillo High School) and **Saturday, March 24th** (8:30am-6pm, CSULB), over 600 participants from Southern California and across the nation will gather to experience over 50 classes, 10 specialty tracks, and 30 instructors, including two Youth Instructors (Samuel Standard 13 years of age from Maryland and Milan Reneau 13years of age from Los Angeles). All children ages 6-years plus, and adults can register for beginner, intermediate, and advanced level technique in all disciplines at www.spiritofpraiseinternational.com.

At 7:00pm on Friday, March 23rd LBUF & The Dancer in Me will present a FREE Opening Celebration in the Arts, “An Evening of Edger’s & Innovators”, featuring a variety of dynamic guest dance & music presentations in the Cabrillo High School Auditorium. LBUF’s festivities close-out on **Sunday March 25th**, at *The Long Beach Unity Music & Arts Festival*, hosted for the first time on the campus of Cabrillo HS, in collaboration with 7th District Councilmember Roberto Uranga. The day commences with an 11:00am Palm Sunday Celebration in the Arts featuring guest speaker Rev. Dr. Najuma Smith-Pollard of Word of Encouragement Church, L.A. Additional live performances throughout the day include bands Neverwonder, Khay Jhay Jazz, Greg B. Entertainment, recording artist Ms. Ty King, community fitness and line-dance classes, wellness village, vendors, Kids Zone, and the grand finale Dancer in Me Showcase. LBUF’s 2018 Training Institute facilitators and program participants include: The Rev. Dr. Najuma Smith-Pollard, Word in Motion Dance Company, the Rev. Dr. Thema Bryant-Davis, Caleb Brundidge, the Rev. Dr. Naima Lett, Pastor Rosalynn Brookins, Katisha Adams, Jason Poullard, Christina Hernandez, Erin Landry, Dr. Amanda Standard, Clarence Walker & COR Church Choir, and many others from across the nation.

About Long Beach Unity Festival

The mission of The Long Beach Unity Festival is to bring unity to diverse communities through music, the Arts and healthy lifestyle initiatives. LBUF produces multiple events, programs, and initiatives year-round including the Sky Kids Arts in Action, the LBUF Eagles Basketball & Mentoring Program, and LBUF’s Leaders and Interns Program. LBUF seeks to demonstrate diversity in culture, music, and performing arts to bring positivity and peace to underserved communities. LBUF is a non-profit 501c3 organization that has been producing community-centered events for nearly two decades with a consistent message of empowerment, leadership training, inspiration, and encouragement to kids and young adults to stay healthy and active. LBUF serves as the fiscal sponsor of Spirit of Praise Sacred Artistry International, which together, produce The Dancer in Me Training Institute annually. For more information, please visit spiritofpraiseinternational.com and lbunityfestival.com. Find us on Facebook at THE LONG BEACH UNITY FESTIVAL and THE DANCER IN ME. Twitter @dancerNme

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